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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 24/04/99

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey

SUBJECT The Cabinet of Recep Peker

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ORIGIN
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DATE: 25X1X6

INFO.

DIST. 31 October 1946

PAGES 6 25X1A2g

SUPPLEMENT

1. The Cabinet as of 25 August 1946:

Name	Ministry	Deputy from
Recep Peker	Prime Minister	Istanbul
Hasan Saka	Foreign Affairs	Trabzon
General Cemil Cahit Toydemir	National Defense	Istanbul
Müntaz Ökmen	Justice	Ankara
Sükrü Kocak	Communications	Erzurum
Sükrü Sökmenşuer	Interior	Çıldagane
Rasat Samsettin Sıror	Public Instruction	Sivas
Cevdet Kerim Inceday	Public Works	
Atif İnsan	Commerce	Izmir
Dr. Behset Uz	Health and Social Welfare	Denizli
Tahsin Bekir Balta	Economy	Rize
Halid Nazmi Kismir	Finance	Tokat
Tahsin Coşkan	Customs and Monopolies	Kastamonu
Faik Kurdoglu	Agriculture	Manisa
Dr. Sadi İrmak	Labor	Konya

2. Recep Peker:

Born in Istanbul in 1886; graduate of Military Academy; assigned to the Yemen; took part in the Turkish and Balkan Wars; fought during World War I on Caucasian front; 4 February 1920, appointed Professor of Military History at Istanbul Military Academy; left shortly thereafter to join Mustafa Kemal in Anatolia; 23 April 1920, became member of the General Secretariat of the first Turkish National Assembly, as well as member of General Staff of the army; 11 August 1923, elected deputy from Kütahya; 13 September 1923, Secretary General of the People's Party, acting at same time as chief editor of the Hakimiyeti Milliye, the official journal of the national movement; 21 May 1924, appointed Minister of the Interior and, later, Minister of the now defunct Exchange of Populations and Reconstruction; 22 December 1924, resigned along with the entire cabinet; became Minister of the Interior in the new cabinet which formed on the same day and resigned on 5 January 1925; resumed functions of Secretary General of the People's Party; 4 March 1925, appointed Minister of National Defense; resigned on 24 December 1927 when the new National Assembly was convened and a new cabinet constituted;

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CONTROL		FBM		FBZ		SCO		CTRB			
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP 25X1A2g

-2-

Recep Peker (cont'd):

3 April 1928, elected President of the Parliamentary Group of the PRP (People's Republican Party); later became Minister of Public Works but resigned on 25 September 1930; 9 March 1931, again appointed Secretary General of the PRP, a post he held until 15 June 1936; 17 August 1942, appointed Minister of Interior, resigning on 19 May 1943, whereupon he resumed his activities with the PRP; 1946, elected deputy from Istanbul.

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Note: Peker is regarded as one of the outstanding collaborators in the Kemalist Revolution. He was one of the closest companions of Atatürk, but broke off with the President in 1936 when he was teaching the history of the Turkish revolution in the Istanbul and Ankara universities, as well as in the military academies. There was a feeling that he had attempted to diminish the part played by Atatürk and had stressed more particularly the contribution of the nation itself in the movement, its resistance and its organizing spirit rather than the personal achievements of the Gazi. Atatürk was incensed by this and dismissed Peker from his post as lecturer and from the post of Secretary General of the PRP.

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3. Hasan Saka: (See [REDACTED])4. General Cemil Cahit Toydemir:

Born in Istanbul in 1883; graduate of War College at eighteen; assigned to the 5th Army Corps in Syria; 1908, arrested in Izmir by secret police of Abdul Hamid for adhering to the Union and Progress Party; sentenced to 7 months imprisonment; 1909, assigned to the Yemen as Commanding Officer; 1911, Italian-Turkish war; joined an expedition against revolutionary movements in Albania; took part in military campaign in Thrace during Balkan Wars; after the Armistice joined forces of Mustafa Kemal; commanded the 1st Division in the Caucasus; became Inspector General of the gendarmerie in Eastern Thrace; commanded 1st Division in crushing Kurdish revolution; 1932, appointed Undersecretary of Ministry of National Defense; 1941, President of the Military High Court of Appeal; 1942, Inspector General of the 1st Army Corps; 1946, elected deputy from Istanbul.

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Note: General Toydemir is highly thought of in military circles; his appointment as Minister of National Defense is considered in line with the policy of İnönü and the other leading members of the PRP to endeavor to offset the influence and political activities of Marshal Fevzi Çakmak (now active in the Democratic Party). There is an increasing tendency on the part of the PRP to win favor in army circles, particularly in view of the adverse effect upon the public of the Hasmet Orbay trial. The PRP realizes that the backing of the army is of paramount importance, and it is generally felt that General Toydemir will exert his efforts in gaining full army support of the PRP.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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-3-

25X1A2g

5. Mimtar Ökmen: (See [REDACTED])

Born in Istanbul in 1895; graduate of Istanbul Law School; 1919-1922, War of Independence; reserve officer on Western front; legal counselor in the army corps under General İnönü; took an active part in the organization of the PRP; 1935, elected deputy from Ankara; 1940, Minister of Commerce; 1945, Chairman of the Parliamentary group of the PRP; 1946, appointed Minister of Justice in the Saracoğlu Cabinet.

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Note: Ökmen is one of the outstanding personalities in the new Cabinet, and is considered one of the most loyal followers of İnönü; he is known to be one of the most influential members of the PRP, and it is generally believed that he will take a very active part in future political developments in Turkey. He is expected to act as the "strong man" in the country's internal affairs, and is looked upon by the Democrat Party as its most bitter opponent.

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Note: Ökmen has been appointed to the newly created post of Deputy Prime Minister. Şinasi Devrin, deputy from Zonguldak, has been appointed as Minister of Justice.

6. Şükrü Kocak:

Born in 1884; graduate of War College; resigned from army with rank of Colonel; 1921, appointed a director of the scientific section of the Aviation League; 1926, Assistant Managing Director, and 1939, Director-General of the Aviation League; 1946, re-elected deputy from Erzurum.

7. Şükri Şökmenşuer:

Born in 1890; graduate of War College; military engineer; 1912, took part in Balkan War on Adrianople front; fought in World War I; joined Mustafa Kemal, commanding on the Jezirah (Syria) and Adana fronts, and later joined General İnönü in his battles; after 1922 completed his studies at Military Academy at Yıldız; upon graduation appointed to operational section of the 6th Army Corps, then commanded 15th Army Division; 1927, resigned from army and became Director-General of Public Security; later occupied posts of Assistant Vali of Istanbul, Governor of Hatay, and Undersecretary of the Food Department; 1942, elected deputy from Erzincan and became a member of various parliamentary committees dealing with internal affairs and national defense; joined Independent Group of the PRP and in 1946 was made Chairman of Committee of National Defense; 1946, elected deputy from Gümüşane.

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Note: Şökmenşuer is regarded as a valuable man and is admired for his administrative abilities; he has specialized for many years in internal affairs and government personnel. He is strong-willed, ambitious, and has now abandoned his army career in favor of civil activities. He has powerful friends in the PRP who regard him as a possible future Prime Minister and perhaps even future President of the Republic.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP 25X1A2g

-4-

8. Resat Semsettin Sirer:

Born in 1903; graduate of the Philosophy Department of Teachers' College; 1926-1929, Inspector-General of Ministry of Public Instruction; 1930, appointed Inspector of Turkish Students in Central Europe; 1934-1939, Inspector of Turkish Students in Eastern Europe; 1943, elected deputy from Sivas, and during the seventh legislative term of the GNA (Grand National Assembly), was a leading member of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Instruction.

9. Cevdet Kerim Inceday:

Born in Sinop in 1895; 1913, graduated from military school and commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the infantry; two years later entered Staff College; graduated with rank of Captain; fought on Caucasian front during World War I; during War of Independence became a member of General Staff of 3rd Army Corps; transferred to Western front under General Inönü; 1927, resigned from the army for reasons of alleged bad health and was placed on the retired list; appointed Inspector of the PRP and held this post for eight years; later appointed member of the Central Committee of the PRP in Ankara; 1940-1941, Minister of Communications; later appointed a Vice-President of the GNA; was a member of the Association of Public Education, the Aviation League, the Association of Economy and National Recovery; has written two books on the Turkish Independence Movement and the Revolution and has given numerous lectures throughout Turkey.

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Note: It is believed that the real reason behind Inceday's retirement from the army was his desire for a political career which offered him an easier road to advancement. While holding the post of Inspector of the PRP he is reported to have openly backed individuals who were able to take advantage of his protection and accumulate fortunes; for this he has been highly criticized and has been accused of having benefited himself materially through the privileges which he extended to his protégés, but there is no proof of this assertion. Inceday is a "fanatic" supporter of the PRP, and there seems to be evidence that his new assignment is prompted by a desire to reward him for services rendered to the Party.

10. Atif Insan:

Born in 1890 in the village of Karaman, Anatolia; completed his studies in Freiburg during World War I; upon his return he joined the Nationalist forces; 1926-1930, Mayor of Urfa; 1931-1934, acted as a director of the Alagehir Bank; 1934, director of the Odemis branches of the Etnak and People's Bank; June 1934, appointed Director-General of the institution, a post he held until 1943; 1940 - March, 1943, Secretary-General of the Importers and Exporters Association of Izmir; during seventh term of the GNA he was elected deputy from Çankiri, and later became deputy from Izmir.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP 25X1A2g

-5-

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Note: Insan is considered a specialist in commerce, and, therefore, is expected to bring about the liquidation of the Birliks (governmental agencies which control the import-export trade) and of the Office of Commerce. He is also expected to introduce the free sale of fuels and to do away with bread rationing. The new Minister has intimated to the press that the proposed changes will be finally decided upon, following the results of the investigations being conducted at the present time.

11. Dr. Behcet Uz:

Born in 1892 in the Izmir vilayet; graduate of Istanbul Medical School; completed studies in Paris and Vienna; upon his return, practiced in Izmir; 1942, elected deputy from Denizli, and was appointed by Saracoglu as Minister of Commerce; resigned after a few months.

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Note: While practicing medicine in Izmir, Uz wrote a number of pamphlets and articles on the treatment of tuberculosis and issued a monthly publication; he is considered a specialist on questions of public health and is obviously well qualified for his new assignment.

12. Tahsin Bekir Balta:

Born in 1902 in Pazar, a village in the neighborhood of Rize; graduate of Faculty of Law at University of Istanbul; received his LL.D. at University of Berlin; 1937, appointed Professor of Constitutional Law; 1940, appointed Professor of Administrative Law at the Law School in Ankara; 1941, taught administrative law at the Police Institute; elected deputy from Rize; has been a member of the Finance and Budget Committee of Parliament.

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Note: Balta speaks French and German fluently and has a fair knowledge of English and Italian; he is one of the youngest deputies. He has been appointed Minister for the first time, and /²⁸ opinion can as yet be hazarded as to his abilities. He is a very active member of the PRP and enjoys great popularity in his electoral district.

13. Halid Nazmi Kismir:

Born in 1897 in Ibradi; appointed an Inspector in the Ministry of Finance at an early age; later appointed Exchange Director and, still later, director of the transportation section; occupied post of Under-secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce; has published numerous pamphlets and articles dealing with Turkish finance; elected deputy from Tokat during sixth term of GNA and became a member of the Budget Committee; for five years was Professor of Financial Economy at the University of Istanbul.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP 25X1A2g

-6-

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Note: One of the younger members of the new cabinet, Kismir is considered a specialist in the field of finance, even though his appointment is thought to be the result of his close friendship with Recep Peker. His integrity is highly commended in connection with the various posts which he has occupied. He is expected to introduce reforms in the collection of taxes, and it is believed that he will set up a system of centralizing the various tax levies into a single tax assessment. The Minister of Finance has solved the question of increasing the salaries of the government employees and officials, but it is feared that these measures may contribute to bringing about the inflation which the Saracoğlu Cabinet halfheartedly attempted to forestall.

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14. Tahsin Coşkan: (See [redacted])

Born in 1890; graduated from Agricultural School in Halkali and became an agricultural inspector; appointed Inspector General of the Ministry of Agriculture; 1926, elected deputy from Kastamonu; for past seven years he has been a member of the Agricultural Economy and Budgetary Committees, ultimately becoming President of the Budgetary Committee; during the last six months of the Saracoğlu Ministry, he was Minister of Monopolies and Customs. Coşkan has traveled widely in France, England, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Poland and Austria, studying problems of interest to the government and has participated in numerous international conferences dealing with agricultural questions.

15. Faik Kurdoglu:

Born in 1892 in village of Tavlusun, Anatolia; studied law at University of Istanbul, later was graduated from the Department of Economics and Political Science of the University of Brussels; upon his return to Turkey, employed in the Ministries of Commerce and Finance and was later Commercial Attaché in several Northern European countries, eventually becoming an Undersecretary in the Department of National Economy; about 1936, elected deputy from Manisa and shortly thereafter began specializing in agriculture; has written some twenty books on world agricultural systems and the methods used in Europe and America; has published three books in French and English on the growth of Turkish tobacco.

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Note: Kurdoglu is at present considered the most outstanding specialist in Turkey on agricultural problems and has headed the movement for agricultural progress and for an improved standard of living for the Turkish peasant. He has consistently attempted to improve and modernize agricultural methods in Turkey and has favored the introduction of agricultural machinery.

16. Dr. Sadi Irmak:

Born in 1905 in Seydişehir; graduate of medical schools in Istanbul and Berlin; practiced medicine in Ankara; 1939, Professor of Physiology; 1943, elected deputy from Konya; 1944, became Inspector of the PRP in Diyarbakir; 7 June 1945, occupied the post of Minister in the newly created Ministry of Labor; 1946, re-elected deputy from Konya.

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Note: Irmak is considered to be a specialist on labor problems and has devoted much time and effort to the organizing of his Ministry and to the study of labor problems in the country.

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